

**Montana Department of Military Affairs  
Disaster & Emergency Services Division  
State Emergency Coordination Center**

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Situation Report for August 31, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

***Wildfires of 2003***

Attention \* - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

**I. Background Information:**

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

**II. Current Montana Fire Situation: August 30, 2003 (2200)**

**A. Large Fires**

*Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5  
National Preparedness Level = 5*

**NORTHERN ROCKIES DAILY SUMMARY**

*Northwest Area Command (Mann) is managing the following large fires:*

- *Blackfoot Lake Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Mortier) – 14,743 acres, 5% contained, 19 miles E of Kalispell.*
- *Middle Fork Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 4,913 acres, 0% contained, 5 miles E of West Glacier.*
- *Wedge Canyon – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Paul) – 48,763 acres, 73% contained, 42 miles N of Columbia Falls. Type 2 Incident Management Team (Saleen) will assume command 8/31 at 1800.*
- *Rampage Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 11,768 acres, 0% contained, 15 miles SE of West Glacier.*
- *Little Salmon Creek Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Weldon), 43,071 acre complex is located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.*
- *Robert – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 49,339 acres, 70% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
- *Trapper Creek Complex – 18,883 acres, 65% contained, 45 statute miles NE of Kalispell.*
- *Crazy Horse – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Chrisman) – 10,500 acres, 70% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius.*

*Central Montana Area Command (Rounsaville) is managing the following fires:*

- *Lincoln Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Studebaker) – 36,760 acres, 69% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln.*
- *Rathbone – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Walker) – 3,010 acres 65% contained, 17 miles N of West Yellowstone.*
- *Winslow – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Kearney) – 13,438 acres, 50% contained, 5 miles SW of Lakeview. Transfer of command to Type 3 Incident Management organization will take place 8/31 at 0600.*

- *Cathedral Peak – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Humphrey) – 2,778 acres, 20% contained, 10 miles S of Nye.*
- *Burnt Ridge Sheep Camp Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Larsen) – 3,102 acres, 85% contained, 12 miles SE of Neihart.*
- *Rough Draw Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Oltrogge) – 3,080 acres, 85% contained, 5 miles S of Livingston.*
- *East Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Gardner) – 23,500 acres, 90% contained, 4 miles E of Fishing Bridge Junction, Yellowstone National Park. Transfer of command to Type 3 Incident Management organization will take place 8/31 at 0700.*

*Missoula Area Command (Ribar) is managing the following fires:*

- *Fish Creek Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Stam) – 31,456 acres, 40% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula.*
- *Black Mountain 2 – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Gelobter) – 7,061 acres, 85% contained, 9 miles W of Missoula.*
- *Cherry Creek Complex – 4,088 acres, 85% contained, 12 miles SE of Thompson Falls.*
- *Mineral/Primm – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Bennett) – 22,542 acres, 70% contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula. Transfer of command to Type 2 Incident Management Team (Broyles) will take place 8/31 at 0600.*
- *Cooney Ridge – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Kechter) – 22,870 acres, 55% contained, 11 miles E of Florence.*
- *Gold 1 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Swope) – 8,296 acres, 80% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis.*

*Central Idaho Area Command (Greenhoe) is managing the following Montana fires:*

- *Beaver Lake Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Brunner) assumed command at 1900 – 24,577 acres, 60% contained, 19 miles SW of Missoula.*

*Mollman – 158 acres, 35% contained, 5 miles SE of Ronan.*

*Union – 762 acres, 0% contained, located in Yellowstone National Park 35 miles E of Ashton, Idaho.*

*This fire is being managed under a confinement*

*3 Mile – 3,000 acres, 100% controlled, 9 miles NW of Glendive.*

## **B. Initial Attack      *Light initial attack - 18 new fires 19,351 acres***

## **C. State Forecast For Montana**

STATE FORECAST FOR MONTANA  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREAT FALLS MT  
430 AM MDT SUN AUG 31 2003

### **WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE**

Today - Smokey North...Otherwise Mostly Sunny. Highs 79 To 89.  
Tonight - Smokey North...Otherwise Mostly Clear. Lows 37 To 47.  
Labor Day - Mostly Sunny. Locally Smoky. Highs 80 To 90.

### **CENTRAL MONTANA**

Today - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The Mid 70s To Mid 80s.  
Tonight - Mostly Clear. Lows In The 40s.  
Labor Day - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The Lower 70s To Lower 80s.

### **SOUTHWEST MONTANA**

Today - Sunny. Highs In The Mid 60s To Lower 80s.  
Tonight - Mostly Clear. Lows In The 40s.  
Labor Day - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The Upper 60s To Lower 80s.

### **EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA**

Today - Mostly Sunny. Highs 75 To 85.  
 Tonight - Mostly Clear. Lows In The Mid 40s To Mid 50s.  
 Labor Day - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The 80s.

### **III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:**

*The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:*

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Lewis and Clark County	Emergency Declaration	8/15/03
Judith Basin County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Missoula County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Carbon County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Dawson County	Emergency Declaration	8/27/03

The US Small Business Administration has issued a Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9W74 for the following counties:

Flathead	Teton	Mineral
Glacier	Broadwater	Missoula
Lake	Cascade	Pondera
Lewis& Clark	Chouteau	Powell
Lincoln	Jefferson	Toole
Sanders	Meagher	

### **IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:**

**State and National Guard Assistance:**

Current Montana National Guard Resources			
Montana Army Guard		EQUIPMENT	Montana Air Guard
NG SOLDIERS	AIRCRAFT MODULES	ARMY & AIR GUARD EQUIPMENT	NG AIRMEN
	3 UH-60S	68 HMMVs	
		3 HEMTTs (Fuelers)	
		6 1 ¼ TRAILER	
		18 M-35 2 ½ TON TRUCKS	
		5 M1009 TRUCK	
		4 HEMTT (Wrecker)	
		14 Pick Up	
		2 VANS	
		1 7-TON TRUCK	
		1 25' FLATBED TRAILER	
		1 M939 SERIES 5T CARGO	
		3 CUCV	
		1 One Ton	
442 Soldiers Assigned	3 Aircraft Modules	127 HVY Equipment	159 Airmen Assigned

### **Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)**

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0700-1900 daily.
- Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:  
Northwest Area Command  
Missoula Area Command  
Central Command

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

## **V. FEMA Grants:**

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties
- Lincoln Complex
- Flathead County Zone

## **VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:**

*For the latest fire restrictions:*

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

*For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates:*

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>

*For the latest closures and evacuations:*

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations\\_road\\_closures](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures)

*For detailed information on specific fires or priorities:*

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed\\_sit.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed_sit.htm)

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac\\_priorities.doc](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac_priorities.doc)